

## Colombia and Venezuela

Maracaibo, situated on the great lake of the same name, and one of the most important commercial marcs of Venezuela, is a city that has a very bad name abroad. It is called "the city of the dead" because so many people have seen it once for an hour or so, pronounced it "the graveyard of earthly hopes and fears." As a matter of fact, the rate of mortality is really not so high at Maracaibo, although the latter is, like Chicago, a very popular place for an earthly paradise. The average temperature at Maracaibo is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit, which, in the humid atmosphere is quite oppressive. The city is situated on a low, sandy spit, well protected by a wide bay, and is a splendid spot, a sandy plain, where there is less malaria and yellow fever than at many of the other Caribbean ports. La Guayra, the seaport of the Venezuelan capital, was described as a "city of the dead" because of the description has stuck to it. Air Services assures us that it never really deserved the bad name and at present is one of the healthiest localities on the Caribbean coast. The extreme temperature here is 94 degrees in the day, 69 degrees Fahrenheit in winter to 94 degrees

Let us see what the actual state of things is in the Federal Republic of Colombia, which is one of the subjects of special study in this volume. In Colombia the whites of pure blood are concentrated in the highlands, the valleys and especially, but more generally on the table lands of the interior. The civilized Indians of pure blood inhabit the slopes and valleys of the Andes, and still constitute the mass of the rural population. According to Mr. Scruggs they are generally simple, honest, industrious, and frugal, but generally small agriculturists, marketmen or farm laborers. They are simple-minded, superstitious, reticent, evasive and untruthful, but they are seldom thieves and never high-way robbers. They are naturally civil, kind-hearted and hospitable, and are not given to quarreling if, after centuries of such experiences as they have had, they were not habitually suspicious of strangers. We observe next that the negroes of pure blood are most numerous on the coast and in the highlands. They are generally of the same type. Sometimes they are small traders; sometimes they are carpenters, masons and contractors; a few are small agriculturists; but the majority of them lead idle and aimless lives and are shiftless and untruthful. They are generally without any other occupation than to be vagabond politicians or "federal" revolutionists, with no thought of making a living in any other way than by moying a Government office. The Mestizos, or mixed descendants of Indians and whites, are the most numerous in the interior, where the middle-class persons among them are generally shopkeepers, mechanics and artisans, the lower classes being domestics and day laborers. Those Mestizos who are educated become sometimes successful politicians, teachers, priests and politicians. These, and they are to be noted, readily intermarry with the whites: between the whites and the Indians there are, apparently, no social barriers, and certainly none between the whites and the descendants of Indians and whites. In fact, the average Mestizo is not to boast of his Indian ancestry, and some of the most learned and influential men of the country are the sons or grandsons of Indian women. The Mestizos are not only the most numerous of the large cities, especially on the coast and in the valleys of the great rivers. Mr. Scruggs says that while in the ordinary relations of life they are never ostracized by either whites or blacks, they are yet manifest to any close observer that they are not of the same blood as the latter. They seem to be secretly disliked by both, though

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o purposes have been kept in view in  
Redemption of Egypt by W. BASIL WORS-  
(Longmans). The author's primary aim  
institute a detailed comparison between

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land in upper Egypt, where the sole source of irrigation are the *sidi*, or flood canals. In lower Egypt, however, the artificial canals of the system in which the canals are supplemented by the Nile. This system was introduced early in the century by Mohammed Ali. Here the fields are flooded for a brief period and then when the winter crops have been sown they are furnished with water through a regular supply of water through the canals. For the purpose of providing a regular supply, the Nile flood is no longer sufficient, and the flow of the Nile must be checked, and the water must be maintained at all times to fill the canals. The immediate object of the system is to introduce the cultivation of cotton, since for these more valuable crops, as necessary that the land should be irrigated, but irrigated—and irrigated in the dry season, when the flood canals are dry.

a successful experiment in the 8th, when six bad floodings were in fact averted. The work was continued in the following December, and in the three succeeding seasons the four-  
whole series of the Delta had been rendered stable. By 1500 the *barraque* had been practically  
it only required to spread a layer of large heavy stones across the edge of the work. The result  
ed directly from the increase of supply of the Delta was stated. He named the amount of the Egyptian has been doubted. We should  
while the restoration of the progress the system of main canals, and part of the original scheme for the Delta with various branches  
the principal canals destined to the head of water held up by the only the Mediterranean Sea, and was in operation, even this  
work required the addition of a *barraque* to facilitate the passage toward through the isthmus which two branches of the *barraque* and in the centre of the Delta, the Beheeh or Western Canal, in-

I. We traverse the Delta from Alexandria to the eye encounters on every hand evidences of the cotton industry. What coal is England or wool to Australia, that cotton is Egypt. In ancient times the national industry was derived from the Nile, it is now drawn from the Delta, which provides three-fourths of total export. A very few factories will reemphasize the importance of the cotton industry to the country. Although the geographical area of the country covers some four hundred thousand square miles, its habitable area is expressed in a number by the diminutive one thousand square miles. Of this relatively small area, three-fourths are covered by the waters of the Nile and its attendant lakes and

In 1800 to 11.02 in 1897, while, on the other hand, the cost of production per 100 lbs. has decreased in the same period from £238.74. In addition to this per-centage of sugar is a small amount of alcohol, and the name of sugar is a misnomer, the name that it has sugar industry, like the wine industry, has been confronted by the same facts, a material fact against which the influence, however strenuous and enlightening, of the Government is powerless. While in 1881 the Baira was the first grade brought to the market to be sold in the form of millings, it was the first grade which had obtained a name in the preceding two years, and in the eleventh month represented a loss of £100 to the Administration. In 1898 there was a slight rise in price, a circumstance which

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